

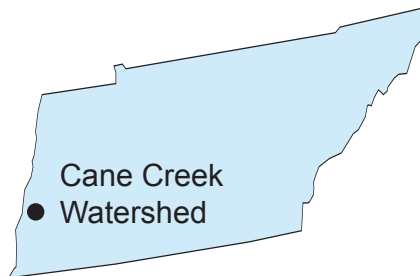
Watershed Operations

October 2009

Cane Creek Watershed Project, Tennessee

Introduction

This project will stabilize severely eroding streambanks that endanger state and county bridges, protect prime farmland, and restore aquatic habitat.



Cane Creek Watershed is located in Lauderdale County, Tennessee.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Lauderdale County, 8th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$12.4 million

Cane Creek is a severely eroding stream running through the city of Ripley and prime farmland in Lauderdale County. When completed, this project will significantly increase public safety and improve local infrastructure and water quality.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cane Creek Watershed District
- Lauderdale County Soil Conservation District
- City of Ripley
- Lauderdale County Government

Benefits

This project will stabilize and enhance 16.5 miles of stream channel, prevent erosion damage to as many as nine bridges, and create fish and other aquatic habitat. The project will prevent erosion of 102,000 tons of soil each year. The project area includes 18,700 prime farmland acres, 777 wetlands acres, 18,700 floodplains acres, and nearly 37,000 acres of highly-erodible land.



Significant erosion endangers this Cane Creek highway bridge. Providing perspective, the red speck at the lower left is the size of a typical patio chair.

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Economic Opportunities

This project will provide over \$900,000 in average annual benefits to the region and generate approximately 258 jobs directly or indirectly. It will provide an opportunity to reduce Lauderdale County's unemployment rate, which currently stands at 18.6 percent. It will be a welcome economic stimulus to a county where 26.8 percent of residents live in poverty.

Statewide Perspective

The watershed improvements will significantly reduce the amount of sediment eroding from the banks of Cane Creek and flowing into the Mississippi River. That sediment travels downstream, contributing to degraded water quality in the Gulf of Mexico.

For More Information

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Severe erosion collapsed this streambank that ripped out and destroyed a culvert.

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